
**Summary of the Bill**

Congress doubled funding to the world's leader in biomedical research – the National Institutes of Health (NIH) – from 1998 to 2003 from $14 to $28 billion per year. One way to measure the success of our NIH investments, in part, is by looking at the tangible products and cures to pressing health problems. Cures increases the capacity of the NIH to produce effective treatments, diagnostics and cures for our nation's most burdensome diseases by proposing a novel approach to publicly funded research.

Cures will do the following:

- *Create the American Center for Cures (ACC) to orchestrate focused research and development of specific solutions to pressing ailments*. The Director of the ACC will lead the NIH in identifying and promoting translational research in the public and private sector. The Director will fund innovative and collaborative research, breakdown bottlenecks in clinical research, and facilitate information exchange.

- *Establish an advisory council comprised of key health experts and stakeholders to advise the ACC Director on the status of national medical needs and novel developments in all sectors.* To use public funds effectively, a centralized mechanism to track research on health threats is necessary. A Council will inform the ACC on biomedical needs, technical feasibility issues, and breakthroughs.

- *Endow the Director of ACC with the authority and resources to ensure multidisciplinary collaborative research between the Institutes and Centers.* Funding is a powerful tool to attract diverse talent to a project, and most of today's complex biochemical puzzles cut across several disciplines. When grants require expertise from multiple sectors to apply, collaboration will be assured.

- *Authorize and stimulate high risk, high yield research to address acute threats and small-population diseases.* Many "third world" and small market diseases require solutions; however, they do not fit into our current "for profit" biomedical model. As the threats of future public health crises increase, we need the authority, funding, and centralized management to mobilize sectors into action.

- *Facilitate complete and efficient transfer of intellectual property from development at the molecular level to clinical trials and into production.* Active participation of the commercial sector in development is critical. A new Office of Technology Transfer will catalog and disseminate the NIH translational research portfolio and oversee the NIH intellectual property licensing.

- *Increase clinical trial throughput by simplifying regulations and supporting the recruitment of trial subjects*. Increased productivity at NIH will result in a greater need for clinical trials. Investigators will need the cooperation of academic health centers, hospitals, clinics and medical practices to recruit and monitor human clinical trials. Streamlined clinical trial protocols will supply the general public with new treatments in a timelier, more efficient, and more economical way.